GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3022
ANSWERED ON:12.08.2005
IMPORT OF TEAKWOOD
Yadav Shri Parasnath

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Teakwood is being imported in many metropolitan cities of the country from Nijeria;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the imported Teakwood from Nijeria has not been released since March 28, 2005 in Nagpur due to the obstimacy and arbitrary behaviour of the officers of customs department;

(d) whether any complaint requesting an enquiry in this regard and an application for getting the Teakwood released has been made by the traders of Nagpur in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details of the action taken so far to release the teakwood?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S PALANIMANICKAM)

(a & (b) Yes Sir. 5520 cubic meters of teakwood was imported from Nijeria during the year 2004-05 and 7482 cubic meters was imported during 2005-06 (April to June) in the metropolitan cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai.

(c) No, Sir. There were few cases of mis-declaration of goods by certain importers at Inland Container Depot (ICD), Nagpur. These importers had mis-declared the description of goods to evade duty. Show cause notices were issued and these cases were adjudicated providing for release of goods on payment of redemption fine and penalty as per the Customs Act, 1962. Provisional release of the goods was also offered to importers during the pendency of investigation.

(d) Ministry have received references from Hon`ble MP Shri Paras Nath Yadav enclosing representations from The Nagpur Timber Merchants Association on the subject of delay in clearance of imported Nijerian roughly squared teak logs through ICD-Nagpur.

(e) The Ministry took up the matter immediately with the Chief Commissioner, Nagpur Zone and directed him to release the consignments of teak wood on provisional basis, pending further investigations in the matter. The customs authorities at Nagpur have already adjudicated some cases and in others, have given an option to the importers to get provisional clearance of such goods pending investigation.